

**REMARKS**

By this Response, Applicants amend claims 1 and 11 and cancel claims 8, 18 and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No further claims have been added. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-12, 14-16, and 19-20 remain pending. No new matter has been added.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants are pleased to note that claims 5-8 and 15-18 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Responsive to the Examiner's objection, dependent claims 8 and 18 have been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 11, respectively, thereby rendering each independent claim and all corresponding dependent claims allowable over the applied references.

**Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 9-12 and 19-20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 9-12 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Alfred et al.* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0187808) in view of *Niki et al.* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0037257). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The subject matter of claims 1 and 11 now include the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 8 and 18 respectively. Thus, each of independent claims 1 and 11 should now be considered allowable over the applied references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 2, 9-12 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Applicants further respectfully submit that remaining claims 2, 9, 10; and 12, 19-20 are in condition for allowance, at least by virtue of their dependency from allowable claims 1 and 11, respectively.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references applied against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 50-2961.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 12, 2009

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